

CIRCULAR

To the Presidents of Branches, Priesthood, and Saints generally of the London Conference, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

DEAR BRETHREN,

You are hereby informed that the next half-yearly assemblage of the Presidents of Branches, Priesthood, and Saints generally, of this Conference, will be held in the Literary and Scientific Institution, Aldersgate Street, City, Sabbath, the 7th day of December, 1851, at $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 10 a.m., $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 2 p.m., and $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 6 in the evening. The Presidents of Branches and Travelling Elders will meet in the Eastern Lecture Hall, Church Lane, Whitechapel, on Saturday, the 6th day of December, at $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 2 p.m., for the purpose of giving in their reports relative to the state of the Work in the various fields of labour assigned them, and for the transaction of the general business of the Conference. The Book-Agents and Treasurers of the "Perpetual Emigration Fund," of the various branches are invited to attend if they can conveniently do so, as it is expected that there will be much instruction given in which they will be especially interested. The above-named officers will be all of the priesthood that will be expected to attend the Saturday afternoon meeting. This restriction is absolutely necessary, that the deliberations of the meeting may not be disturbed and retarded by an over-crowded state of the hall.

That it may not be necessary for the Brethren to separate until the business of the meeting is accomplished, refreshments will be provided in the hall for the comfort and sustenance of the body.

The Presidents and Secretaries of the Branches are requested to be particular in making out their reports, to have a plain, short, and concise statement of the number of Elders, Priests, Teachers, and Deacons, with the total of membership, &c., ready to be handed in, in writing, to the Secretary of the Conference, at the time they give in their verbal reports; this will be a double security against errors occurring in making up the general report. When the Secretaries of the branches make out the lists of those "removed by letter," "received by letter," "cut off," "emigrated," ~~or of those who may have died during the half year,~~ they will please insert the full name ~~as well as the number of each individual~~; this will have a tendency to do away with a fruitful source of error in making out the conference record; for it has heretofore been proved that errors have frequently been made in putting down the numbers of those who have died, been cut off, &c. It would not be at all agreeable to a good and faithful Saint to find, in after years, that opposite his name on the conference record, the brief words "cut off" were recorded, when, in fact, he had been faithful to the covenants he had made with God, and stood well in the estimation of his brethren; neither would he like to find his epitaph written upon the conference record, through the error of the Secretary of the branch of which he was then a living member: attention to the above will avoid all such disagreeable occurrences.

I take great pleasure in informing the Saints that their wide extended labours for the spread of the Gospel have not been in vain: the baptisms for the first three months of this half year amounted to considerably upwards of THREE HUNDRED; and the present prospects are cheering for a much larger increase in the three months ending December 7th.

The Travelling Elders have preached with all diligence in the fields of labour assigned them. Many of them have baptized a greater or less number of persons, and thus established the work in places remote from any of the already-existing branches of the Church. They have organized their converts into branches, which will form centres, around which numerous other branches

will, in time, be formed, in which faithful men will be found who will go forth and raise the Standard of Truth among their friends and acquaintances; and thus the heaven, planted by our faithful brethren, will ferment and work, until thousands of the honest in heart will be brought to the knowledge of the Truth, and rejoice with them in the blessings of the Gospel.

THE TRACTS have been the means of doing great good: with them we have been enabled to introduce the knowledge of the first principles of the Gospel to tens of thousands of persons, to whom we could not have obtained access in any other way. Many of our faithful brethren and sisters have been enabled to prove their zeal for the spread of the Gospel by their works: the Lord has been with them; and in being the bearers of the message of life and salvation to others, they have found that the surest way to obtain blessings for themselves is to become instruments in the hands of God in communicating blessings to those by whom they are surrounded. Some have become discouraged in the circulation of tracts, because they do not see that astounding results follow their labours; and, like some unfortunate individuals spoken of in Scripture, they have only run well for a season! They have forgotten that seed sown must have time to germinate; they have forgotten that the Gospel is the power of God unto the condemnation of all those who will reject it, as well as the power of God unto the salvation of all those who will obey it; they have forgotten that the worldly-minded and disobedient are to be *condemned* by the Gospel, and the righteous saved by it; they have forgotten that except mankind hear the Gospel they can neither be saved nor condemned by it:—and, in their forgetfulness, they have become weary of well-doing. I am rejoiced to be enabled to say that the majority of the Presidents of branches, and the Saints under their charge, labour from principle, and do not run by sight. They realize that if they work righteousness, they will in no wise lose their reward; that their blessings will not depend upon the alacrity with which men may or may not receive the message they bear. Brethren and Sisters, be encouraged when I tell you that we have made over three hundred times as many converts in three months as Noah and his three sons did during the long and arduous mission they performed in their day. They fainted not, and the Lord greatly blessed them for the faithful manner in which they performed their ministry; and he will also bless you for all your sacrifices, your labor and toil in the spread of the gospel, whether the people receive your message or not.

THE GENERAL BOOK AND STAR AGENCY of the Conference has been changed. Elder Cook has resigned the Book and Star Agency and the Treasurership of the Perpetual Emigration Fund into the hands of Elder Thomas C. Armstrong. The Church has bought the improvements, fittings-up, &c., made by Elder Cook, at 35, Jewin Street, City; and Elder Franklin D. Richards has taken a lease of the premises until the end of the year 1853; therefore, all monies, and all orders for books, &c., usually sent to Elder Cook, will hereafter be sent to Thomas C. Armstrong, 35, Jewin Street, City, London. As order and system are the life of business, Brother Armstrong will, hereafter, always send receipts for all monies received before the tenth of each month, in the parcel of Stars for the fifteenth of each month; and for all monies received between the tenth and twenty-fifth of each month, in the parcel of Stars for the first of the following month. If he should at any time neglect to do this, the Presidents of branches, or all who may have charge of the funds sent, are requested to write, *directly*, and inform him of the omission. With this Circular, a balance sheet will be sent to each branch, shewing the amount standing against them at the date of Elder Cook's resignation. The President of each branch is requested to see, without delay, whether the balance sheet agrees with the Sub-Agent's accounts or not, and report the same to Elder Armstrong by the 15th of October.

If this is not done by each branch in the time specified, their silence will be taken as an acknowledgment of the correctness of the account sent, and all future settlements will be founded upon the acknowledged correctness of the balance sheet dated September 10th, 1851. If the General Agent's accounts are found incorrect, let the Sub-Agents send in their bills and receipts from the date of their last settlement, with their statement of the matter, to my address by the time specified, and I will act as their agent in the settlement of the discrepancy.

CONFERENCE FUND.—The Presidents of branches are requested to send in their donations to this fund as soon as convenient, that the liabilities of the Conference may be discharged. This fund has been productive of a great deal of good; the tracts, books, &c. furnished the Travelling Elders, have been a tower of strength to them in the performance of their labours; and the other purposes for which a portion of the fund has been used are praiseworthy, and will redound in blessings upon the heads of all those who have contributed towards it. A faithful and concise report will be given of its disposition at Conference.

THE DONATIONS TOWARDS THE ITALIAN MISSION have been liberal, amounting to over forty pounds sterling. The Saints of the London Conference will surely share liberally in the blessings resulting from the establishment of that Mission. Tens of thousands will yet rejoice in the blessings of the Gospel in that beautiful but down-trodden country, through the ministry of Elder Snow, and those who are labouring with him. The Book of Mormon, in the Italian language, will soon be ready for sale; those who are desirous of obtaining a copy can send in their orders to the General Agent. A copy of the first edition of the Book of Mormon, in the various languages of the nations of the earth, will be considered a rich treasure in years to come.

The time is drawing near when I shall be released from my labours in this Conference, and shall take my departure for the Bluffs, to rejoin my family and take them to the valleys of the mountains, and there situate them preparatory to the performance of other missions and other labours, that may be in accordance with the will of my brethren. The feeble state of my wife's health renders me doubly anxious to return home as speedily as possible. Years of toil and exposure have made great inroads upon a constitution that was never strong; and the cares and anxieties resulting from my long absence, and the undivided responsibilities resting upon her in the care of her family, have, of late, much weakened her physical system. My prayers are constant and unceasing in the behalf of my family, that the destroyer may not triumph over them, and that they may be released from disease, and kept in the enjoyment of health and strength of body and peace of mind: in this I trust I shall have the benefit of the prayers of my Brethren and Sisters in this Conference. I am about entering upon my last tour through the branches. My visits will all be farewell visits; and I trust I shall be enabled to leave a parting blessing upon all the Saints over whom I have had the honour to preside, in giving them such useful and practical instruction as shall be applicable to the circumstances in which they may be placed, and calculated to strengthen every good desire in their hearts.

I will embrace the present opportunity of commending my brethren, the Presidents of branches, for the faithfulness and zeal they have manifested by their works since I have been associated with them in my labours in this Conference. I have been greatly encouraged from time to time by the readiness with which they have received and carried out my instructions. Brethren, a course like this will always secure to you the blessings of the Lord. No man can keep and enjoy the Spirit of God, who looks with a jealous eye upon those whom God has placed over him; and, instead of sustaining and strengthening them, seeks to thwart their purposes. Jesus came into the world, not to do ill

own will, but the will of His Father who sent Him. He sent forth the Apostles upon the same conditions. The Apostles sent forth the Seventies, and the Seventies called Elders, and set them to preside over the churches. Now, if the Elders done the will of the Seventies; the Seventies, the will of the Apostles; the Apostles, the will of Jesus; and Jesus, the will of the Father, was not the Father's will done by all? most assuredly. Therefore, brethren, always avoid a spirit that would inspire you to act independently of the will of those who are called of God and placed to preside over you; for such a spirit is a spirit of apostasy.

I am not at this time able to give the name of my successor, as I do not know it myself; yet such is my trust and confidence in the wisdom that will guide the choice of Elder Richards in choosing a man to succeed me, that I take this opportunity of recommending to you my Successor as a man of wisdom and integrity, one who will not only be qualified to sustain the present exalted station held by this Conference, but will be able to give even a much greater impetus to the Work than has yet been attained.

Let me exhort you, Brethren, to keep in kindly remembrance your former Presidents, who laboured so faithfully in your midst, and who, by their labours, contributed so much to the prosperity of the Work, and done so much to lay the broad foundation upon which we have had the happiness to build for the last year. You gave them the right hand of fellowship when they left, and bore witness to their faithfulness and zeal; therefore, treat with scorn and contempt the first efforts of the man who would seek to detract from their virtues and magnify their weaknesses. The confidence and good-will of their Brethren and Sisters whom they have left behind, and whose society they yet hope to enjoy, is dear to them—is beyond price. How ignoble, then, must be the spirit that will lead a man to propagate rumours in the least detrimental to them as men of God.

I will take this opportunity of requesting all who design favouring me with choice seed of fruits, trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables, to send them to me at 35, Jewin Street, by the 10th day of December next, at the latest.

The Book of Mormon is out of print. The New Edition will soon be ready for sale. If there are any of the Sub-agents of the branches in and around London, who have more Books of Mormon on hand than they expect to sell in a month or two to come, they are requested to return them to Jewin Street, that the General Agent may be able to supply some pressing orders for the use of Book Clubs, &c.

THE TREASURERS OF THE PERPETUAL EMIGRATION FUND are hereby requested to send in their names and addresses to the General Treasurer *without delay*. This information was called for months since; not more than one-fourth of the Treasurers have paid attention to the call—or if they have, I cannot find their names recorded on the General Treasurer's Book. As it would be troublesome to give the names of the branches whose Treasurers are delinquent, I hereby request each man who knows himself to be a Treasurer, to hand a small note containing his full name and address to his president, without delay; and it will be his duty to enclose it in his monthly report for the 1st of November. I wish to remind my brethren that I am neither General Book Agent, nor General Treasurer to the Emigration Fund—but that Elder Thos. C. Armstrong holds those important offices. They are, therefore, requested not to mix up orders for Books, &c. with their monthly reports to me; but if they have anything to say to Br. Armstrong, to direct their communications to him, and if they please, they can enclose them in their letters containing the monthly reports to the President of the Conference. With an earnest desire for the rapid spread of truth and the welfare of all Saints, I subscribe myself your affectionate brother in the bonds of peace.

35, Jewin Street, City,
October 1st, 1851.

ELI B. KELSEY; President.

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DEAR BROTHEREN,

You are hereby informed that the next half-yearly assemblage of the Presidents of Branches, Priesthood, and Saints generally, of this Conference, will be held in the Literary and Scientific Institution, Aldersgate Street, City Sabbath, the 7th day of December, 1851, at $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 10 a.m., $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 2 p.m., and $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 6 in the evening. The Presidents of Branches and Travelling Elders meet in the Eastern Lecture Hall, Church Lane, Whitechapel, on Saturday, 6th day of December, at $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 2 p.m., for the purpose of giving in their reports relative to the state of the Work in the various fields of labour assigned them, and for the transaction of the general business of the Conference. Book-Agents and Treasurers of the "Perpetual Emigration Fund," of various branches are invited to attend if they can conveniently do so, and are expected that there will be much instruction given in which they will be especially interested. The above-named officers will be all of the priesthood and will be expected to attend the Saturday afternoon meeting. This restriction is absolutely necessary, that the deliberations of the meeting may not be disturbed and retarded by an over-crowded state of the hall.

That it may not be necessary for the Brethren to separate until the business of the meeting is accomplished, refreshments will be provided in the hall for the comfort and sustenance of the body.

The Presidents and Secretaries of the Branches are requested to be particular in making out their reports, to have a plain, short, and concise statement of the number of Elders, Priests, Teachers, and Deacons, with the total of membership, &c., ready to be handed in, in writing, to the Secretary of the Conference, at the time they give in their verbal reports; this will be a double security against errors occurring in making up the general report. When the Secretaries of the branches make out the lists of those "removed by letter," "received by letter," "cut off," "emigrated," or of those who may have died during the half year, they will please insert the full name as well as the number of each individual: this will have a tendency to do away with a fruitful source of error in making out the conference record: for it has heretofore been proved that errors have frequently been made in putting down the numbers of those who have died, been cut off, &c. It would not be at all agreeable to a good and faithful Saint to find, in after years, that opposite his name on the conference record, the brief words "cut off" were recorded, when, in fact, he had been faithful to the covenants he had made with God, and stood well in the estimation of his brethren; neither would he like to find his epitaph written upon the conference record, through the error of the Secretary of the branch of which he was then a living member: attention to the above will avoid all such disagreeable occurrences.

I take great pleasure in informing the Saints that their wide extended labours for the spread of the Gospel have not been in vain: the baptisms in the first three months of this half year amounted to considerably upon **THREE HUNDRED**; and the present prospects are cheering for a much increase in the three months ending December 7th.

The Travelling Elders have preached with all diligence in the fields of labour assigned them. Many of them have baptized a greater or less number of persons, and thus established the work in places remote from any of the already existing branches of the Church. They have organized their converts into branches, which will form centres, around which numerous other branches

will, in time, be formed, in which faithful men will be found who will go forth and raise the Standard of Truth among their friends and acquaintances; and thus the heaven, planted by our faithful brethren, will ferment and work, until thousands of the honest in heart will be brought to the knowledge of the Truth, and rejoice with them in the blessings of the Gospel.

THE TRACTS have been the means of doing great good: with them we have been enabled to introduce the knowledge of the first principles of the Gospel to thousands of persons, to whom we could not have obtained access in any other way. Many of our faithful brethren and sisters have been enabled to improve their zeal for the spread of the Gospel by their works: the Lord has been with them; and in being the bearers of the message of life and salvation to others, they have found that the surest way to obtain blessings for themselves is to become instruments in the hands of God in communicating blessings to those by whom they are surrounded. Some have become discouraged in the circulation of tracts, because they do not see that astounding results follow their labours; and, like some unfortunate individuals spoken of in Scripture, they have not run well for a season! They have forgotten that seed sown must have time to germinate; they have forgotten that the Gospel is the power of God unto the condemnation of all those who will reject it, as well as the power of God unto the salvation of all those who will obey it; they have forgotten that the worldly-minded and disobedient are to be condemned by the Gospel, and the righteous saved by it; they have forgotten that except mankind hear the Gospel they can neither be saved nor condemned by it:—and, in their forgetfulness, they have become weary of well-doing. I am rejoiced to be enabled to say that the majority of the Presidents of branches, and the Saints under their charge, labour from principle, and do not run by sight. They realize that if they *work righteousness*, they will in no wise lose their reward; that their blessings will not depend upon the alacrity with which men may or may not receive the message they bear. Brethren and Sisters, be encouraged when I tell you that we have made over three hundred times as many converts in three months as Noah and his three sons did during the long and arduous mission they performed in their day. They fainted not, and the Lord greatly blessed them for the faithful manner in which they performed their ministry; and he will also bless you for all your sacrifices, your labor and toil in the spread of the gospel, whether the people receive your message or not.

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own will, but the will of His Father who sent Him. He sent forth the Apostles upon the same conditions. The Apostles sent forth the Seventies, and the Seventies called Elders, and set them to preside over the churches. Now, if the Elders done the will of the Seventies; the Seventies, the will of the Apostles; the Apostles, the will of Jesus; and Jesus, the will of the Father, was not the Father's will done by all? most assuredly. Therefore, brethren, always avoid a spirit that would inspire you to act independently of the will of those who are called of God and placed to preside over you; for such a spirit is a spirit of apostasy.

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October 1st, 1851.

ELI B. KELSEY, President.